

It may be worth recording that in June 1970 at Dungeness the larvae were in extraordinary abundance and devastated the vegetation, mainly composed of willows, blackthorn, hawthorn and bramble, over a wide area. What was the state of the species in its other haunts in the country, I wonder?—B. K. WEST, 36 Briar Road, Bexley, Kent.

A SOUTH AMERICAN BUTTERFLY IN DORSET: While preparing a member of Weymouth West Scout Troop for his Natural History badge, I heard that his grammar school friend, Robert Smith, had taken an unusual butterfly in a rough, sloping meadow bordering the Flect, on 23rd August 1970.

I was able to borrow the specimen, which was a little damaged, but fairly well set in the same style as Smith's other set specimens. As I could not identify the insect, I took it to Mr Douglas E. Dodwell at Yeovil, who identified the butterfly as *Hypanartia lethe* Fabr.

I am informed by Mr T. G. Howarth of the British Museum (Natural History) that this species is widely distributed in Central and South America from Mexico to the Argentine, where the larvae have been recorded feeding on *Celtis spinosa* Spreng. and other *Celtis* species (Ulmaceae), also upon *Boehmeria caudata* Swarz.

He also tells me that they have in the museum a specimen presented by Mr R. L. E. Ford which was taken alive in Covent Garden market on 17th October, 1935.

How this second specimen of *lethe* reached South Dorset will probably remain a mystery. I know of no one in this area who imports larvae or pupae of this species, so it is unlikely to be an escapee.

I am greatly indebted to Mr Howarth and Mr Dodwell for the help they have given.—V. W. PHILPOTT, F.R.E.S., 122 Wyke Road, Weymouth, Dorset.

THE POSSIBLE OCCURRENCE OF ARGYNNIS CYDIPPE L. (LEP.) IN KINTYRE.—Whilst on holiday with my family in Scotland, we stopped on 18th August 1969 for lunch between Crinan and Tayvallich, very near the northernmost point of Loch Sween, and only about 50 yards from the Loch itself. I noted on the wing *Pararge aegeria* L., *Erebia aethiops* Esp., *Aglais urticae* L., *Vanessa atalanta* L., *Lycaena phlaeas* L. and one very battered fritillary. The last named was flying in a damp, marshy field, resting occasionally on thistle heads, and although not taken, was assumed to be *Argynnis cydippe* L.

However, reference to the provincial Atlas of Insects of the British Isles—Butterflies, reveals no record of *cydippe* in Scotland, a fact of which I was unaware at the time, and this would suggest that the insect was, in fact, *A. aglaia* L., even though this species also is not recorded for Kintyre. Nevertheless, I still feel certain that I saw *cydippe*, but clearly the record needs confirmation or otherwise, and anyone in the area this summer could make a useful contribution to the Atlas by